

the

DEC 2011 / JAN 2012 EDITION

FOCAL Point

CENTERED ON ACTIVITIES OF TOLEDO FIRST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FAMILY

✘ Unto This Child As Well? ✘



*For unto us
a child is born,
unto us
a Son is given . . .*

lelelele

Isaiah 9:6 says, "Unto us a child is born..." And because Jesus came and lived and died, that makes every child precious. Especially the millions of women and girls being trafficked as slaves in the sex industry around the world. That's why every week in December, at Toledo First Church we're collecting a second offering to benefit The Daughter Project which is a local non-profit organization dedicated to helping girls recover from the trauma of human sex trafficking and preventing the trafficking of girls in Toledo. They believe God is outraged not only by those who enslave others but also by those who are able but unwilling to help the victims. Will you join us in helping them? What would happen if we gave these children as much for Christmas as we are spending on our own?—Pastor Mike ##



Christmas is love tugging us back to God with the powerful clasp of a tiny hand reaching out from a bed of straw.—unknown

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... from our photo album

Photos from the past two months show (1) Shawn and Mindy Flack bringing their daughter, Charlotte, to be dedicated to God; and (2) a few of the many stu-

dents who came to learn and play at the 11th annual RingFest at Toledo First. *Thank you, church family, for your dedication to this event!* Dave and Sheila

Case hosted our annual Harvest Party & Hayride at their farm (3); and in the final photo Carson Makley was dedicated. The congregation joined Tom and

Meghan in vows to teach and model the grace of Jesus to him. *Thanks, Jeff Batchelder, for sharing your photos! ##*

Remember: You can see this newsletter in beautiful color by visiting toledofirstadventist.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DEC 10
Christmas C
onnections & Film Fest

DEC 31
Progressive Dinner/then
YO Party

JAN 7
Communion

JAN 21
MVA @
worship/
Film Fest

FEB 4
International
Food Fest



Unto us a Child is Born



Join us on Sabbath, December 10th at 5 p.m. for a Connections Christmas Celebration. Sing songs of praise, worship in prayer and fellowship. Toledo First SDA Church Fellowship Hall



Film Fest @ 7pm follows Connections

On Saturday evening, December 10, join our church family for "Call + Response," a documentary exploring the 21st century slave trade that offers first hand accounts from prominent political and cultural figures. Next film is January 21. ##

What are you doing New Year's Eve?

Let's attend parties at three different homes, eat one course of a meal at each home and then meet back at church for dessert with Pastor Mike and family! Sound good?

You must pre-register for this New Year's Eve progressive dinner at the church bulletin board, or by emailing dee@toledofirstadventist.org, or by calling the church at 419.882.6200 (**deadline Dec. 20**). Cost will be \$5 per person. (Where can you get a 4-course meal for that?!). Adults, youth, and school-age children are invited. No babysitting will be provided. We'll meet at church at 5pm, be divided into groups, receive instructions, then go to our first stop.

It won't be the same without you so plan to come and sign up today! —Dee Caulder ##

Walleye Game Dec 3

Tickets are limited and \$10/each. Carpooling from church at 6pm. RSVP required to Pastor Mike if you want to go. ##

Youth Party

YO will have a party at church on New Year's Eve beginning at 9pm. ##

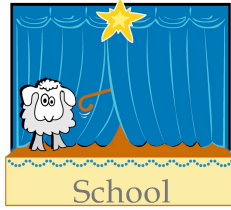
Don't miss Feb 4!

It's the social that has earned a good (and delicious) reputation—the International Food Fest. Put it in your planner now so you don't miss it!##

The Focal Point is published bi-monthly by Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church ~ 419.882.6200 ~ toledofirstadventist.org

Come support our school children Dec 15

The students at Toledo Junior Academy always practice diligently to present great programs and this year will be no exception! Come and experience their Christmas program on Thursday, December 15, 7pm. You will leave with the Christmas spirit! ##



Christmas Program

A report from JMLC

Pastor Mike asked Tanya Purcell, Director of James Meade Learning Center to say a few words about the center. She spoke at the November 19, 2011, worship service:

First, I want to commend all of you for allowing children and families to come here every day and for supporting that.

I was thinking this week about the things that I am thankful for and about the hundreds, really hundreds, of children who have come through these doors and have been a part of this ministry. They experience love and care that Toledo First extends to the families. And in a broader view, that ministry is a secure foundation in our community, but further James Meade Learning Center is well-known throughout Northwest Ohio.

James Meade was a pastor at Toledo First and he had a vision for children of all ages. Your ministry has adopted that philosophy

that Pastor Meade wished to see. It is to instill Jesus Christ and the awareness of His love into children's lives.

Pastor Meade passed away, but his vision lives on vibrantly through the James Meade Learning Center. This year we celebrate 8 years of operation ministering to over 1,000 children over those 8 years.

This wonderful ministry did not come without sacrifice. Many church members have given hours of their time to sit on the James Meade Learning Center Board to continually guide, to problem-solve and to keep the vision in the forefront of the ministry. Financial sacrifices have been honored and the 15 staff members, including the teachers, the administrators, the maintenance, all have dedicated endless hours because they believe in the hope that we can extend to families in our community.



I am thankful, really thankful, for the opportunity to be a

part of your great mission. I am thankful and honored to carry on the mission of Pastor Meade. And I'm thankful mostly for the miracles we have seen in the lives of the children that attend this child care center. And I'm thankful for your support to see this great mission carried forward. Thank you. ##



What not to take into the new year

Self-help books: Trust in God first; don't turn to Him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6)

Tape measure: Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14)

Rearview Mirror: Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14)

Gavel: Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38)

Life Vest: Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33)

Garage Door Opener: We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25)

Handcuffs: Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through and despite us. Just follow Him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44) — Greg McCaslin ##

This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ.

—Frank McKibben

Here's more on The Daughter Project

Did you know that according to the United Nations, 25 million people are being trafficked today? It is the 2nd most profitable activity in the world for organized crime. The FBI says 15k people are trafficked into the USA every year. Nearly 2k of our own Ohio youth were enslaved by sex traffickers last year making Toledo, Ohio number one per capita and number four nationwide for sex trafficking!!!

To combat this evil, we're going to have guest speakers adding to my Advent remarks each week. Rep. Teresa Fedor will be here first from Columbus. She's a politician using her voice and influence to stop trafficking. Sister Sandy from S.T.O.P. will be next followed by Jeff Wilbarger from The Daughter Project, the third week. Though we are still behind in our 2011 local church budget needs, we will unashamedly be collecting an additional offering each week to help this organization help more children. Their goal is to build and operate a recovery home for adolescent girls who have been rescued by law enforcement agents. One hundred percent of monies payable to Toledo First marked The Daughter Project on the memo line will be donated. Thanks for considering spending AS MUCH on these kids this Christmas as you do on your own kids or grandkids. — Pastor Mike ##



5th Annual Little Minnow Awards Given

Each year on the Sabbath before Thanksgiving we give awards to those who are nominated for doing “small things with great love”—things that really aren't small at all such as what this year's recipients do. The entire tech team was nominated. Pictured, L - R, are John Hood, Eniko Romine, Shawn Flack, Carla Szczechowski, Todd Barnes, Dr. Steven Bills, and (far right) Ron Szczechowski (Emmett Romine was unable to be there). Nominated also were Fern Baer for spiritual care and kindness; Kimiko Kawakami for teaching origami at church school 2 or 3 days a week, and Donna Schuster for everything regarding hospitality and her service in the kitchen (which we

all benefit from). The LMAs are given to encourage members of the body of Christ, just as our Example encouraged the “good and faithful servant.” —DeLaura Caulder ##

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The photos below were taken during worship services in October and November. Heart-stirring messages, testimonies, trusting-in-Jesus prayers, great music, and sermons focusing on Jesus in Hebrews were experienced by those who attended. You, too, can hear and see all of these at www.tfsda.org, click on “sermons.”



Calendar Events

Dec 2011 & Jan 2012

Birthdays

December 5 Lu Bills
December 7 Eleanor Meade, Cindy Larimore, Dana Holland
December 9 Hannah Bundy
December 10 Kay Ostrander
December 12 Mary Ann Sandy
December 13 Marilyn West, Jacob Duwve, Edward Cothren
December 15 Brian Crosby
December 16 Regina Tary, John Eaton
December 17 Norman Burrow
December 18 Joseph Famulare
December 19 Frank Netry
December 20 Ralph Collins
December 22 Cassandra Leibengood, Mary Parker
December 25 Janica Peppard
December 26 Carolyn Nonoy
December 27 Alex Peppard, Duane Gustrowsky
December 28 Marion Thomas



Sabbath Events

Sabbath School @ 9:30 & Worship @ 11am each week
Kid Connect @ 11am each week

Dec 3 State Representative Teresa Fedor will be our guest
Dec 10 Sr. Sandy of the organization STOP (Stop Trafficking of People) will be our guest; Friendship Dinner hosted by Marilu Beebe & team; Christmas Connections at 5 pm; Film Fest at 7pm
Dec 17 Jeff Wilbarger, Director of The Daughter Project speaks; Christmas Fellowship Potluck; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm
Dec 24 Christmas Worship with Music & Praise; Eat 'n Greet; visit Elizabeth Scott nursing home at 2:30pm
Dec 31 Allan Wolfson speaks; Progressive Dinner @ 5pm; YO New Year's Eve Party, 9pm

Sundays

Christ the Word Church rents our church morning & evening on the 1st & 3rd Sundays each month; Morning only other weeks.

Mondays

Dec 12 - TJA students serve lunch at Cherry St. Mission

Tuesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Wednesdays - Soup for You @ 6pm; Reading Revelation & Pathfinders @ 6:30 (except Dec. 21 & 28)

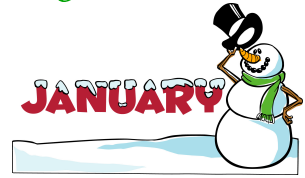
Thursdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

Dec 15 - School Christmas Program @ 7pm

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

Birthdays

January 1 JoAnn Arthur
January 2 Sam Santa Rita
January 3 Cathy Hall
January 6 Isaiah Godie
January 7 David Ashley, Kevin Herman
January 8 Donna Schuster, Dr Sam Santa Rita
January 11 Trent Peppard
January 16 Rosemary Maehre
January 20 Cassidy Cross
January 24 Kathy Kajfasz, Jennifer Landeros, Larry Duwve
January 27 Glenn Szana
January 29 Ericka Bilby
January 30 David Case, Kyla Reams



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Kid Connect @ 11am each week

Jan 7 Pastor Mike speaks; communion

Jan 14 The Rest of the Story, Part II" —Pastor Mike's sermon

Jan 21 Mount Vernon Academy Choir & Band at worship; Fellowship Potluck; visit nursing home on Whiteford at 3pm; Film Fest in evening

Jan 28 David Case speaks; Eat 'n Greet; visit Elizabeth Scott nursing home at 2:30pm

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Looking ahead to February:

Feb 4 - International Food Fest

Feb 5 - Souper Bowl of Caring

Feb 11 - Valentines for Toledo - Sheri LaFontaine
in concert